

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 1-16, 18-36 and Claims 37-43 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7, 20 and 27-36 which have been withdrawn from consideration in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, should be allowable upon allowance of a generic claim. The claims have been amended to eliminate the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in paragraphs 3 and 7 of the Office Action, with Claims 37-43 introduced in this regard. It is respectfully pointed out Claim 16 most certainly contains definitive recitation because one skilled in the art can easily understand and determine rheological and viscosity properties similar to polypropylene.

It is respectfully pointed out the objection to Fig. 7 raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action is improper, because Fig. 7 illustrates the manufacture of an embodiment of the present invention in which the nonwoven material comprises two meltblown layers M sandwiched between two spunbond layers S (SMMS material) as recited, e.g., in Claim 37 (reference is being made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application). Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Fig. 7 is earnestly requested (please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions in this regard).

Claims 1-4, 8-19 and 21-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, because the specification *allegedly* fails to teach or suggest making or using non-woven material having

(1) elastic properties aligned in one direction (as opposed to a single elastic property), and

(2) fibers or filaments aligned in a direction extending transversely to the direction in which the non-woven material is elastic.

In this regard, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite a non-woven material having an elastic property. Furthermore, Fig. 1 and accompanying description, e.g., in the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the specification, clearly illustrate and describe aligning fibers/filaments and elastic property transversely to one another.

More specifically, the first two paragraphs on page 13 of the specification describe generating elasticity in the longitudinal direction of the nonwoven material 14 by unwinding from a support roll 16 and being drawn through an oven 12 by drawing rolls 18. The drawn web 14 passes between wheel-shaped gripping devices 20 in the oven 12 and which grip the passing web 14 (at periphery 22) and stretch the passing web 14 laterally, i.e., widen the passing web 14 and align the fibers or filaments transversely. To generate elasticity in the longitudinal direction of the guided web 14, the speed of the web 14 passing through the oven 12 is lowered so that the web 14 is drawn in the lateral direction at a faster rate than moving through the oven 12.

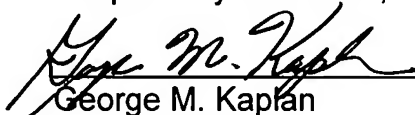
To generate elasticity in the transverse direction, the wheel-shaped gripping devices 20 are simply omitted from the oven 12. As described in the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the specification, the drawing rolls 18 are driven at a higher speed than entry speed of the nonwoven material web 14 into the oven 12, to provide elasticity in the transverse direction by this longitudinally-directed stretching. Since the lateral edges of the

drawn web 14 are not fixed, the width of the web 14 drawn through the oven 12 is reduced in a transverse direction to longitudinal drawing through the oven 12, and with the fibers or filaments predominantly aligned in the longitudinal direction.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted the present application quite clearly describes aligning fibers/filaments and elastic property transversely to one another and satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Therefore, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed, together with the requisite fee and fee for introducing the additional claims herein.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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